AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 30, wherein the punch is configured to punch the edges of the sheets to form an edge feature.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 2, wherein the edge feature is formed on leading and a trailing edges of the sheets.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 2, wherein the edge feature is formed on the leading edges of the sheets.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 2, wherein the edge feature is formed on the trailing edges of the sheets.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 2, wherein the edge feature is a finger index.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 2, wherein the controller controls the punch to locate and punch the finger index at a varying depth on successive pages.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 6, wherein the finger index is semi-circular.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 6, wherein the finger index is polygonal.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 2, wherein the punch is configured to punch the edges of the sheets to form an edge feature in the form of an index tab.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 30, wherein the binding system is a stapler.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 30, wherein the binding system applies adhesive.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 30, wherein the punch schedule of the controller determines whether or not to punch a sheet based on a location of the sheet in the stack of sheets.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 30, wherein the punch is movable in a direction substantially parallel to an edge of the sheets being punched to locate the feature at a variable position along the edge.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 30, wherein the punch is configured to punch a window in a sheet forming a cover of a document.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 30, wherein the punch is configured to punch perforations to form a tear out card.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 30, wherein the punch is configured to punch the edges of the sheets to form a saw tooth edge feature.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the step of punching forms an edge feature.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of punching forms the edge feature on the leading and trailing edges of the sheets.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the punching schedule indicates the page numbers to be punched and the location to be punched.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the sheets are printed prior to punching.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the punching schedule provides information for punching edge features at gradually varying depths.

29. (Currently Amended) A sheet-wise binding system comprising:

a sheet transport path for transporting a plurality of printed sheets in a sheet-wise manner;

a trimmer configured to trim the edges of the sheets traveling through the sheet transport path to form a saw tooth edge feature;

a stacking system for stacking the trimmed sheets;

a binding system for binding the stacked sheets to form a finished document; and

a controller programmed to control the sheet transport path and the trimmer to trim the edges of the sheets at a varying depth according to a trim schedule to create the saw tooth edge feature,

wherein the saw tooth edge feature includes a plurality of document portions, each document portion including a plurality of trimmed sheets of varying trimmed depths to expose a surface of a first visible trimmed sheet of an adjacent document portion,

wherein a portion of the trimmed sheet removed to the varying trimmed depth is an entire edge of the trimmed sheet.

30. (Previously Presented) A sheet-wise binding system comprising:

a sheet transport path for transporting a plurality of printed sheets in a sheet-wise manner;

a punch configured to punch a feature into at least one of the sheets traveling through the sheet transport path;

a stacking system for stacking the punched and unpunched sheets;

a binding system for binding the stacked sheets to form a finished document; and

a controller programmed to control the sheet transport path and the punch to punch the feature in some of the sheets and not punch the feature in others of the sheets according to a punch schedule, wherein the controller controls the sheet transport path to locate and punch the feature at a varying depth, in a direction substantially parallel to the sheet transport path, on different pages of the finished document.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the controller moves the punch in a first direction substantially perpendicular to an edge of the sheet on which the feature is to be formed, and also moves the punch in a second direction substantially parallel to the edge of the sheet in which the feature is formed.

32. (Previously Presented) A method of binding sheets to form a document, the method comprising:

delivering a plurality of sheets to a punch in a sheet-wise manner;

punching at least one of the sheets with the punch to form a feature according to a punching schedule by controlling a sheet transport path and the punch to punch the feature at a variable depth in a direction substantially perpendicular to an edge of the sheet on which the feature is to be formed;

stacking punched and unpunched sheets from the punch; and

binding the stacked sheets to form a document.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 32~~ A method of binding sheets to form a document, the method comprising:

delivering a plurality of sheets to a punch in a sheet-wise manner;

punching at least one of the sheets with the punch to form a feature according to a punching schedule by controlling a sheet transport path and the punch to punch the feature at a variable depth in a direction substantially perpendicular to an edge of the sheet on which the feature is to be formed;

stacking punched and unpunched sheets from the punch; and

binding the stacked sheets to form a document,

wherein the punching comprises:

moving the punch in a first direction substantially perpendicular to an edge of the sheet on which the feature is to be formed, and moving the punch in a second direction substantially parallel to the edge of the sheet in which the feature is to be formed.

34. (New) The sheet-wise binding system of claim 29, comprising a plurality of saw tooth edge features.

35. (New) The sheet-wise binding system of claim 29, wherein the trimmed edge is an edge of the sheet that forms an angle with a bound edge of the finished document.

36. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the punching comprises:

moving the punch in a first direction substantially perpendicular to an edge of the sheet on which the feature is to be formed, and moving the punch in a second direction substantially parallel to the edge of the sheet in which the feature is to be formed

37. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the method forms a plurality of features and the position along the length of the edge of the sheet for any one feature is substantially constant.

38. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the punch punches the feature at a position along a length of the edge of the sheet that is substantially constant between a portion of the plurality of sheets.